



Bible Books Book by Book Series

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

The Acts of the Apostles follows the activities of the apostles from the ascension of Christ until Paul is sent to Rome in chains - from about 33 AD to about 63 AD. It is generally believed to be written by Luke, a follower of Paul mentioned in the book, and the same man who wrote the Gospel of Luke. After the first chapter the only apostles mentioned are Peter, James, John and Paul. Most of the book is about the activities of Peter (about 1/3) and Paul (about 2/3).

Read Acts 13:9. This book is a lot easier to understand if you realize that Saul and Paul are really the same person. Keep it in mind.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Lord Jesus.. receive my spirit, and do not hold this sin against them!



If 'Success in Life' is measured by what is accomplished in the face of adversity then Stephen is one of the great men in church history. **Acts 6:8-7:60**

Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 9. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Acts.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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Acts of the Apostles – Chapters 1 - 9

The Beginning of the Church - Jesus Ascends to Heaven. Matthias is chosen to replace Judas. The Holy Spirit falls at Pentecost. Peter preaches a powerful sermon. Peter heals a begger. Peter and John are imprisoned. Ananias and Sapphira make a deadly error.

Please read Acts 1:1 to Acts 5:42 and answer the following questions:

- [1] Who besides Matthias was considered for Apostleship? _____
- [2] How did Peter defend the disciples against the accusation of drunkenness? _____
- [3] What was wrong with the man who was healed by Peter? _____
- [4] Who sold land and gave the money to the Apostles? _____
- [5] What was the name of the Pharisee who spoke on behalf of the apostles? _____

Stephan and Philip - Seven Deacons are appointed. Stephan becomes the first martyr and the persecution of the church begins. The church is dispersed and continues to grow. Philip speaks to an Ethiopian.

Please read Acts 6:1 to Acts 8:40 and answer the following questions:

- [6] Name three of the seven men appointed deacons. _____
- [7] Who watched the cloaks and robes of the people stoning Stephen? _____
- [8] Where did Philip first go and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ when he left Jerusalem? _____

Paul Becomes a Christian - Saul meets Jesus on the road to Damascus and becomes a believer. Paul goes to Jerusalem for fellowship with the believers. (Remember Acts 13:9; Saul = Paul)

Please read Acts 9:1-25 and answer the following questions:

- [9A] How long was Paul without sight after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus? _____
- [9B] Who did God send to heal Paul? _____
- [9C] How did Paul escape the threat of murder in Damascus? _____



They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...
- ACTS 2:3,4 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

The Beginning of the Church:

- [1] Who besides Matthias was considered for Apostleship?
Joseph also known as Barsabbas also known as Justus Acts 1:23
- [2] How did Peter defend the disciples against the accusation of drunkenness?
It was too early in the day to be drunk. Acts 2:13-15
- [3] What was wrong with the man who was healed by Peter? He could not walk. Acts 3:2-8
- [4] Who sold land and gave the money to the Apostles?
Joseph, a Levite of Cyprus, also called Barnabas (i.e. Son of Encouragement) Acts 4:36-37
- [5] What was the name of the Pharisee who spoke on behalf of the apostles? Gamaliel Acts 5:34-40

Stephan and Philip:

- [6] Name three of the seven men appointed deacons.
Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas Acts 6:5
- [7] Who watched the cloaks and robes of the people stoning Stephen? Saul or Paul Acts 7:58
(See Acts 13:9)
- [8] Where did Philip first go and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ when he left Jerusalem?
Samaria Acts 8:5

Paul Becomes a Christian:

- [9A] How long was Paul without sight after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus?
Three days Acts 9:9
- [9B] Who did God send to heal Paul? Ananias Acts 9:10-18
- [9C] How did Paul escape the threat of murder in Damascus?
Through a hole in the wall, he was lowered in a large basket. 9:23-31



Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.
- ACTS 4:12 NIV

Acts of the Apostles – Chapters 9 - 18

Peter - Peter heals the sick and raises the dead. Peter brings gentiles into the fold because of a vision from God. The church spreads further. Peter is imprisoned and escapes. Herod dies after having James killed.

Please read Acts 9:32 to Acts 12:23 and answer the following questions:

- [9D] Where did Peter raise Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead. _____
- [10] Who sent for Peter to come from Joppa to Caesarea? _____
- [11] Where were the disciples first called Christians? _____
- [12] Who released Peter from jail? _____

Paul's First Missionary Journey - Paul & Barnabas start out together. Seleucia, Cyprus, Paphos, Pisidian, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe are all visited.

Please read Acts 12:24 to Acts 14:28 and answer the following questions:

- [13] Who decided that Paul and Barnabas would be sent on a missionary journey. _____
- [14] The people at Lystra thought that Paul was one of their idols named what? _____

Council at Jerusalem - Paul and the other Apostles have a meeting to discuss doctrinal matters.

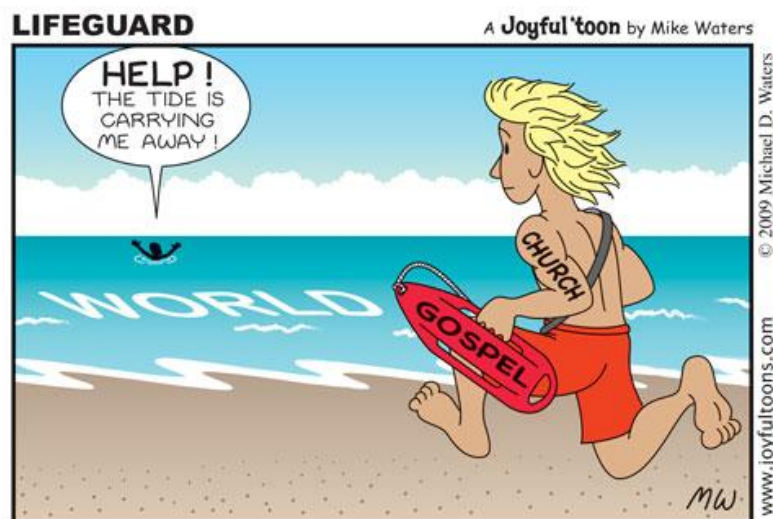
Please read Acts 15:1-35 and answer the following questions:

- [15A] What Jewish ritual did some men from Judea teach was necessary for salvation? _____
- [15B] True or False? At Jerusalem it was decided that salvation was through the grace of the Lord Jesus. _____
- [15C] How was the decision communicated from Jerusalem to Antioch? _____

Paul's Second Missionary Journey - Paul & Silas start out together. Derbe, Lystra, Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, Troas, Asia, Thyatira, Philippi, Macedonia, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth are all visited or passed through.

Please read Acts 15:36 to Acts 18:22 and answer the following questions:

- [15D] When Paul and Silas started their journey, where did Barnabas and Mark go? _____
- [16] What caused Paul to decide to go to Macedonia? _____
- [17] In Athens, Paul went and preached next to which altar? _____
- [18A] Paul went to a house next to the synagogue owned by who? _____



He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.
— ACTS 11:14 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

Peter:

- [9D] Where did Peter raise Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead. Joppa Acts 9:36-42
- [10] Who sent for Peter to come from Joppa to Caesarea? Cornelius, a centurion. Acts 10:1-8
- [11] Where were the disciples first called Christians? Antioch Acts 11:26
- [12] Who released Peter from jail. An angel Acts 12:5-10

Paul's First Missionary Journey:

- [13] Who decided that Paul and Barnabas would be sent on a missionary journey.
The Holy Spirit Acts 13:2-4
- [14] The people at Lystra thought that Paul was one of their idols named what? Hermes Acts 14:12

Council at Jerusalem:

- [15A] What Jewish ritual did some men from Judea teach was necessary for salvation?
Circumcision Acts 15:1
- [15B] True or False? At Jerusalem it was decided that salvation was through the grace of the Lord Jesus. True Acts 15:8-22
- [15C] How was the decision communicated from Jerusalem to Antioch?
By letter and word of mouth Acts 15:23-30

Paul's Second Missionary Journey:

- [15D] When Paul and Silas started their journey, where did Barnabas and Mark go?
Cyprus Acts 15:39-40
- [16] What caused Paul to decide to go to Macedonia? A night vision or dream. Acts 16:9-12
- [17] In Athens, Paul went and preached next to which altar?
The altar of the Unknown God Acts 17:22-23
- [18A] Paul went to a house next to the synagogue owned by who? Titius Justus Acts 18:7



Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ACTS 13:38 NIV

Acts of the Apostles – Chapters 18 - 28

Paul's Third Missionary Journey - Paul visits Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus, Macedonia, Greece, and Miletus.

Please read Acts 18:23 to Acts 20:38 and answer the following questions:

- [18B] Who explained to Apollos the way of God more accurately? _____
- [19] By whose hands did God perform extraordinary miracles? _____
- [20] According to Acts 20:6 who sailed from Philippi with Paul? _____

Paul is Arrested and Imprisoned - Paul is falsely accused and arrested in Jerusalem. He is taken to Caesarea for trial before Felix. Felix puts off doing anything in hopes of a bribe from Paul, and keeps Paul in prison for two years.

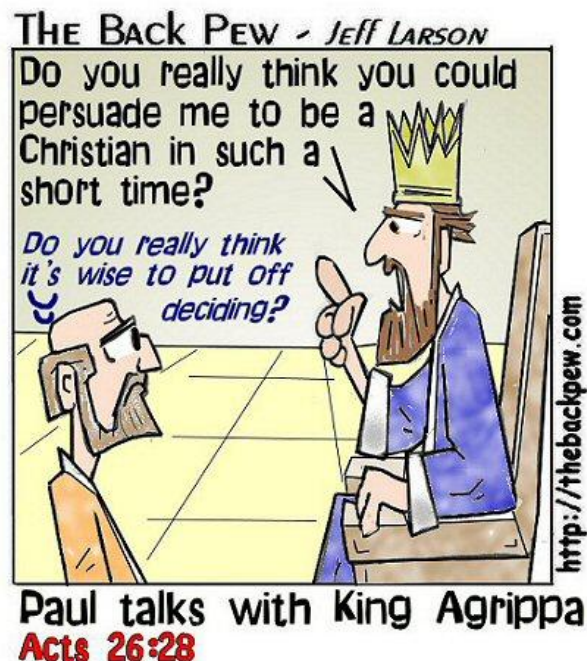
Please read Acts 21:1 to Acts 24:27 and answer the following questions:

- [21] Before saying good bye to the disciples in Tyre, what did they do? _____
- [22] What kept the Roman Commander from beating Paul? _____
- [23] Who told the Roman Commander of the Jews plot to kill Paul? _____
- [24] Who was the attorney hired to prosecute Paul before Felix? _____

Paul is sent to Rome - Paul is tried before Festus and Agrippa. He appeals to Caesar and is sent to Rome. He is shipwrecked by a storm at Malta but eventually arrives in Rome. He carries on with his missionary work from within prison while awaiting his trial.

Please read Acts 25:1 to Acts 28:31 and answer the following questions:

- [25] Why did the Jews want Paul's trial moved to Jerusalem? _____
- [26] What kept Agrippa and Festus from setting Paul free? _____
- [27] Who kept the soldiers from killing Paul as the ship was breaking up? _____
- [28] What was the figurehead of the Alexandrian ship which took Paul to Rome? _____



----- ANSWERS -----

Paul's Third Missionary Journey:

- [18B] Who explained to Apollos the way of God more accurately? Priscilla and Aquila Acts 18:26
[19] By whose hands did God perform extraordinary miracles? Paul Acts 19:11-12
[20] According to Acts 20:6 who sailed from Philippi with Paul?
Luke, the writer of Acts Notice the word "we."

Paul is Arrested and Imprisoned:

- [21] Before saying good bye to the disciples in Tyre, what did they do?
Knelt on the beach and prayed Acts 21:3-5
[22] What kept the Roman Commander from beating Paul?
Paul was a Roman citizen Acts 22:23-29
[23] Who told the Roman Commander of the Jews plot to kill Paul? Paul's nephew Acts 23:16-22
[24] Who was the attorney hired to prosecute Paul before Felix? Tertullus Acts 24:1-2

Paul is sent to Rome:

- [25] Why did the Jews want Paul's trial moved to Jerusalem?
So they could murder him on the way Acts 25:2-3
[26] What kept Agrippa and Festus from setting Paul free?
Paul had appealed to Caesar Acts 26:32
[27] Who kept the soldiers from killing Paul as the ship was breaking up?
The Centurion Acts 27:42-43
[28] What was the figurehead of the Alexandrian ship which took Paul to Rome?
Twin Brothers Acts 28:11 (It is a constellation)



(1) Briefly describe Peter's sermon in Acts 2:14-41. How does it apply to us today?

Think & Pray _____

(2) Briefly describe Stephen's defense in Acts 7:1-60. How does it apply to us today?

Think & Pray _____

(3) Briefly describe the conference at Jerusalem in Acts 15:1-35. How does it apply to us today?

Think & Pray _____

(4) Briefly describe Paul's defense before Felix in Acts 24:10-21. How does it apply to us today?

Think & Pray _____

(5) Briefly describe Paul's defense before Festus and Agrippa in Acts 26:1-29. How does it apply to us today?

Think & Pray _____

(6) How would you describe Paul's parting words in Acts 28:23-28. How do they apply to us today?

Think & Pray _____

(7) What is the meaning of Acts 17:11 for Christians today?

Think & Pray _____

(8) If someone asked you what Acts was about what would you say?

Think & Pray _____

If you have any questions about Acts, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

(1) In Acts 2:14-41 Peter preached a sermon about Jesus Christ fulfilling the prophecies and the promises of the Old Testament, by dying in our place on the cross, and being raised from the dead because of our forgiveness. In his sermon Peter quoted Joel 2:28-32, Ps 16:8-11, Ps 132:11; 2 Sam 7:12, and Ps 110:1. (He may have also been referring to Ezekiel in verse 36.) It was a simple gospel message based on God's word that ended with about 3,000 people being saved. How does that apply today? A simple gospel message based on the Scriptures is an effective sermon. The whole Bible is about Jesus Christ, including the Old Testament, and He is all we need.

(2) In Acts 7:1-60 Stephen tried to make the Jews who were about to kill him realize that Christianity was based on the Holy Scriptures, which his listeners supposedly already believed. He basically summarized the history God's people starting with Abraham and tried to make it clear how the coming of Jesus Christ was the logical and necessary conclusion to the Old Testament. How does that apply today? The whole Bible is about Jesus Christ, including the Old Testament, and He is all we need.

(3) In Acts 15:1-35 we find that some of the Apostles believed that Christians were to keep all the traditions and customs of the Old Testament. Paul and Barnabas argue and debate with them that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all that. The Old Testament was designed to make us realize our need for Him. Paul and Barnabas prevail. You can get a more detailed view of Paul's arguments in all of his epistles, but they are probably most clearly stated in Romans and Galatians. How does that apply today? Christianity is for all people, not just the Jews. Christianity is not about symbols, traditions, and rituals. It is instead about a close personal relationship with God. The entire Bible, including the Old Testament, has this same message, and it is all we need.

(4) In Acts 24:10-21 it seems to me the main thrust of Paul's defense is that he simply did not do the things of which he is accused. He was minding his own business and broke no laws, Roman or Jewish. In verses 14 and 15 he makes some points of particular interest to Christians today. He calls Christianity "the Way." He tells us that we are serving the same God as the Jews, the God of history. He says Christianity is entirely in agreement with the Law and the Prophets, which we call, the Old Testament.

(5) In Acts 26:1-29 Paul appeals to King Agrippa's knowledge of the Old Testament scriptures and Jewish traditions. (Interestingly it is the Roman governor Festus who finds his arguments the most persuasive.) Paul calls Christianity "the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers." He means the ancestors of the Jews, going all the way back to at least Abraham and perhaps Adam. It could be taken either way. Paul talks about how strongly he opposed the ideas of Christianity before he had a life changing encounter with Our Savior. (Have you had a life changing encounter with Jesus Christ?) Paul proclaims the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and that real Christianity welcomes all races into the family of God. How does that apply today? The whole Bible, including the Old Testament, is about Jesus Christ, and He is all we need. Christ is for everyone regardless of heritage or background.

(6) In Acts 28:23-28 Paul tells a gathering of people who came to his place of imprisonment about the Kingdom of God. Paul bases his explanation on the Law of Moses and the Prophets, or what we call the Old Testament. How does that apply today? Christianity is for all people, not just the Jews. Christianity is not about symbols, traditions, and rituals. It is instead about a close personal relationship with God. The whole Bible, including the Old Testament, has this same message, and it is all we need.

(7) I believe Acts 17:11 teaches three important points. First, we should be eager for God's truth. Second, we should only believe those things which the Bible confirms. Third, we should examine the Scriptures daily as we learn more about our God. It should be of some interest to note that the Scriptures they were studying to confirm the gospel message is what we call the Old Testament. Acts 17:11 seems to sum up Acts – eagerness for God's truth, the foundation of our faith on the Scriptures, and daily diligence in examining God's Word.

(8) Acts Summary The Acts of the Apostles follows the activities of the apostles from when Jesus went up in heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, until Paul is sent to Rome as a prisoner. It covers the three decades following the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was written by Luke, a disciple of Paul, the same man who wrote the Gospel of Luke. After the first chapter the only apostles mentioned are Peter, James, John and Paul. Most of the book is about the activities of Peter and Paul.